

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 NEA-10 CCO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 USSS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 ACDA-19 IO-14 AID-20 SY-10 FBO-01 A-01 OS-03

PER-05 DRC-01 /190 W

----- 106025

P R 151345Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 352

INFO AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

AMCONSUL TANGIER

USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USCINCEUR

COMNAVTRACOM KENITRA

COMNAVCOMMSTA SIDI YAHIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 4672

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PFOR XF XI MO

SUBJECT: MOROCCAN SITREP, TENTH DAY

REF: RABAT 4668

1. DISTURBED AT HEADLINES IN YESTERDAY'S SEMI-OFFICIAL
"LE MATIN" AND OMINOUS TONE OF ACCOMPANYING ARTICLE (REFTEL),
I CALLED ON PAPER'S DIRECTOR AHMED ALAOUI IN EARLY AFTERNOON
AT HIS HOME ACCOMPANIED BY PRESS ATTACHE. GAVE HIM PRESS
RELEASE BASED ON DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENT OCT 13
DENYING US MILITARY FORCES INVOLVED IN FIGHTING, AND
SAID I HOPED PAPER WOULD PRINT IT. ALAOUI PROMISED TO DO
SO; TONE OF CONVERSATION WAS FRIENDLY. WE ALSO DISTRIBUTED
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PRESS RELEASE TO OTHER PAPERS, ARAB EMBASSIES, AND TO POLITICAL

FIGURES. I ALSO CALLED ON MEHDI BENNOUNA, DIRECTOR MAGHREB ARAB PRESSE SERVICE, THIS MORNING TO URGE HE GIVE FULLER COVERAGE TO OUR DENIALS. HE PROMISED TO DO SO. SAID ALLAL AL-FASSI PLEASED TO GET DENIAL WE DISTRIBUTED YESTERDAY AND HAD INSTRUCTED ISTIQLALI PRESS NOT TO GIVE UNDUE PROMINENCE ALLEGATIONS OF UNCERTAIN FOUNDATION.

2. THIS MORNING'S "LE MATIN" CARRIED OUR DENIAL IN CORNER ON FRONT PAGE. EDITOR'S NOTE ACCOMPANYING STORY SAID THAT DENIAL HAD BEEN "NOTED" AND IN MODERATE TONE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT US WOULD ADOPT "IMPARTIAL ATTITUDE." CRITICISM OF US IN REST OF PRESS TODAY ALSO SEEMS, FOR WHATEVER REASON, RELATIVELY SUBDUED IN COMPARISON RECENT DAYS, BUT WE WOULD NOT EXPECT THIS TO SURVIVE BAD NEWS FROM FRONT (OFFICIAL LINE HERE IS THAT MOROCCAN TROOPS STILL HOLDING ON TO POSITIONS IN GOLAN) OR REPORTS OF INCREASED US AID TO ISRAEL.

3. RABAT, TANGIER AND CASABLANCA REMAIN CALM. AUTHORITIES HAVE ADDED ADDITIONAL POLICEMAN TO GUARD AT ALL AMBASSADORIAL RESIDENCES IN TOWN. WE ASKING FOR ONE FOR MY RESIDENCE AS WELL, AND ASKING FOR POLICE TO GUARD RABAT AMERICAN SCHOOL. PARKER

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